



## “It takes determination”

NPA students engage in national walkout in support of gun control

By Amelia Parker  
Staff Writer

On the morning of March 14th, the NPA parking lot was briefly filled with many students of the NPA student body. They marched out of their classes to protest the lack of governmental response to the national demands for gun control.

Organized and executed by students, the teenagers gathered in the parking lot and spent their time out of class calling each phone number on a list of representatives. While on the phones with their representative's offices, the students explained why they had walked out and also told them what changes they wanted. Congressman Jared Huffman, senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, as well as a number for the White House were listed with contact information on the scripts.

The assemblage was planned for 17 minutes, dedicating each minute to a victim of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High school shooting, where a gunman killed 17 and injured 16 students and staff members on February 14, 2018 in Parkland, Florida.

A script was prepared beforehand and distributed while the students gathered around senior Mattea Denney. She began the event with a few words, encouraging the students and reminding them of the influence they would have in the next minutes. Denney, addressing the group, said, “I would like to thank you for joining us, and personally commend each and every one of you for standing up for what you believe in. It takes courage, it takes determination, and it takes strength, and I am so glad to see the immense amounts of strength that our generation has shown in this past month. We are the future, and only we can make the change that we wish to see for tomorrow, so thank you all for being a part of that change!”

After Denney finished the introduction, a few logistical notes were shared, and then the group immediately turned into a flurry of white papers, as the students began reading over the script and dialing numbers. Before long, callers at NPA would only be able to reach busy signals as the calls overflowed phone lines.

The strong bond that these tragic events have created throughout the small community at NPA was noticed by many students. Finn Tetrault, a sophomore, described his observance of this, saying, “I think it's important that we, as a school, are doing this together to make everyone aware that we are the generation that can cause a change. As a community, we can move together as one, and if there's people who don't understand that, I feel like we need to show them and

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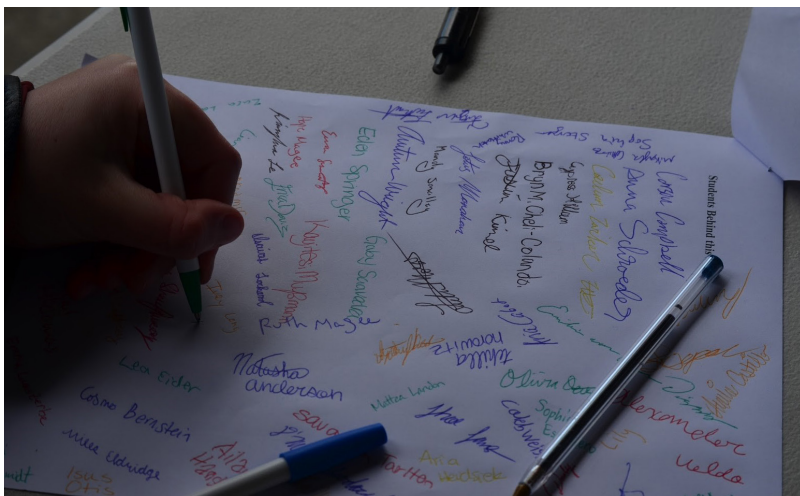
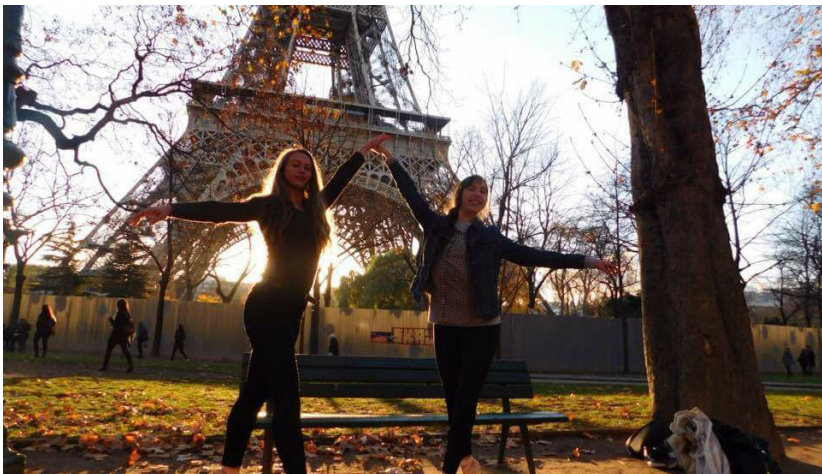


PHOTO BY SARAH HASIUK

After the 17 minutes were over and the calls were done, the participants of the walkout all signed a letter written to Congressman Jared Huffman, urging him to advocate for the implementation of universal background checks.



PHOTOS BY OMEGA GASKILL

Delaney Gaston (left) and Olivia Oetker (right) with the Eiffel Tower behind them. NPA juniors Gaston and Oetker traveled to France last fall with other NPA students.

## Au revoir, Humboldt. Bounjour, France!

NPA students travel to and study in France

By Omar Gadzhiev  
Staff Writer

Every year France receives 3,169,000 Americans tourists, and during the fall of 2017, NPA contributed 12. This trip offered the students the unforgettable opportunity of studying in the French high school, Lycée Marie Curie.

This scholastic experience was made possible by Sara Hammoutene. Lycee Marie Curie was the school where she studied, and her connection with the school made it possible for students to experience French high school life, which is incredibly different from the life at NPA. Marceau Verdiere was another trip organizer and chaperone, who said, “the connection with the high school that Sara created, allowed students to go to school in France, while also living with French families and being close to Paris.”

The goal of the trip was not just to learn the language and sight-see, but also to understand the French way of life; full immersion into the French culture and limiting the interactions in English. Verdiere admitted that sometimes, on the trip, the students were struggling to express themselves in French. “A struggle is good. It is when you have to find your way out of the situation in the language. You know that you learn how to use everything you know to go around the things that you do not know.”

Hammoutene brought NPA students to her hometown, Sceaux which is a small city 20 minutes away from Paris. Hammoutene recounted, “Sceaux is where I grew up, and it reminds me of Arcata, as far as the community and the organic food. All of that is pretty similar.”

For Hammoutene, going back to France was a powerful experience, because she got to go back to her high school, but not as a

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## Bronze William McKinley to leave the Arcata Plaza

By Mattea Denney  
Staff Writer

Its history is filled with contempt, honor, disrespect, and frustration; this is Arcata's infamous William McKinley statue. However, it will not have any more history in the city of Arcata, as the city council recently voted to finally remove the statue from its longtime home on the Arcata Plaza after years of controversy.

The statue has been a point of contention ever since its placement on the Plaza in 1906. George Zehndner, a wealthy Arcata resident, commissioned the statue to be sculpted by Haig Patigan as a tribute to the 25th U.S. President William McKinley. Zehndner then gave the statue to the city of Arcata as a gift, and it was placed by the city in the Plaza. Over time, however, some residents of Arcata began expressing their concerns about having the statue in the center of their city, mostly because they did not agree with McKinley's treatment of native people during his presidency.

Although controversy over the statue has recently piqued, this is not the first time that the removal of the statue has been called for by the residents of Arcata. Similar movements in the 1970's, 1990's, and even as recent as 2005, brought the decision to the city council. Suggested solutions included moving the statue to the neighboring town, McKinleyville, returning the statue to the Zehndner family, or even relocating it to the William McKinley Presidential Library in Canton, Ohio. Still, the city council had not voted to remove Patigan's sculpture until February 23, 2018.

“The preponderance of evidence leads that the statue doesn't



PHOTO BY SARAH HASIUK

His days are numbered. Amid a swirl of controversy and debate the statue of President William McKinley that has stood in Arcata's Plaza since 1906 will soon be coming down.

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## From Field to Market

Freshman class project examines the story behind the clothes they wear

By Ruth Magee  
Staff Writer

When a garment sweatshop collapses and kills hundreds of innocent workers trapped inside, the Western world is horrified. The people who are shocked to find out about the horrendous working conditions of millions of people worldwide are the ones consuming and perpetuating the cycle of cheap labour and cheap garments. In an effort to educate NPA's freshman class about the origins of the clothing they wear everyday, NPA's history teacher, Arnold King, created the Clothing Commodity Project.

King asked everyone in the class to choose one item of clothing, or an accessory they wear often. He then supplied a list of 24 criteria concerning the exact location from which each raw material that was involved in producing the item of clothing was sourced. The goal of the project was to find the factories and farms where every raw material involved was produced. Then the students were asked to create a map that included where all of the materials originated from around the world and then where the student purchased the item.

King has done this project with some of his previous classes and was inspired to originally start doing it after he learned that another one of NPA's history teachers, Andrew Freeman had began doing it many years ago. “The purpose of the project is for students to learn about the stories behind the products they buy and the people involved in those products. The big lesson here is that it takes more people than you would initially think to make the products all around us,” King explained.

When a T-shirt is bought, it already has an extensive amount of history. The cotton has to be grown, the cotton farmer must sell the cotton to someone who brings it to a mill, then it gets turned into fabric before being sent off to a factory to be made into a T-shirt. “There are all these steps, and every one of them could be happening in a different country. It's not uncommon for a simple T-shirt to have traveled through three or four countries on its way to you,” King elaborated. However, the most important aspect of looking at where clothing comes from is the examination of how the workers are treated.

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### SPORTS NPA basketball

With twelve of the team members being freshman The future looks bright for the NPA co-ed basketball team.

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### ART Brothers Karamazov

After two weeks of hard work-the Senior class of NPA performed Brothers Karamazov at Gist Hall.

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### EVENTS Annual french dinner

The elegant french dinner is a annual event that helps NPA students and teachers travel internationally.

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# The Word

Do you think kneeling or protesting the National Anthem is a beneficial use of the First Amendment or is disrespectful?



Abigail Hasting-Tharp

I think that as long as expressing your freedom of speech isn't harming someone on a physical or deeply emotional level, then it is okay. You could also argue that burning a flag or not kneeling for a National Anthem is harming you on a deeply disrespectful emotional level, but I think it is okay for certain things. It's not necessary to say things that you do not believe in, like if it does not represent something that you agree with. But I don't think there's a need to talk badly of it.



Alex Lamers

If our country is in some state of distress, protesting the National Anthem is a very vivid way of showing that distress. If there is an issue with the Anthem, it's not the issue of being too patriotic, it more being blind to the issue at hand, because every once in a while, the government needs realigning. Burning the flag, for example, is violent and aggressive. So, when you have people kneeling, which is an action that represents sorrow, it is a very peaceful way to protest. I don't agree with violent protests, and when I heard about this, I thought it was a perfectly fine way to show the sorrow of the country.



Cypress Killeen

I think that our nation has a really strong idea of itself, and the National Anthem is the culmination of that, even though it was written for any country and adopted by ours. People grow up hearing it at all these events, and there is a bit of nostalgia and patriotism and it is all wrapped up in one song. I could see, in some situations, how people could be offended by it. If you, or someone you know, has served in the armed forces, they could feel like, "I'm fighting for this country, and you won't even stand during a song about this country we are risking our lives for."

## WALKOUT

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group of students, citizens even, finding a way to peacefully and respectfully come together and to advocate for what they believe in and for what changes they want to see in their world."

Tetrault, as he gestured to Freeman, said that "obviously, here at NPA, it's a very tight knit community. You can see the smile on Andrew's face right now as we're calling our representatives; Andrew is a supporter of this, just as he is with other student initiated events. I believe the teachers support us in this endeavor completely and totally, even if they're 'legally' not obligated to."

While a very large part of the student body had left class and was participating, it was not unanimous, as some students chose to stay behind and get caught up on school work. Senior Keaton Sullivan explained that he began hesitant, but eventually, after thinking about the bigger picture, decided to leave. Sullivan said of walking out, "Earlier today, I was thinking I wasn't going to -- you know, focus on my education. But I realized that some students in Parkland and in other schools across America, before today, haven't been able to focus on their education because a bullet went through them. We have to do something! I'm tired of Congress not taking us seriously! We're going to start voting in, what? Six months?"

Other students did not walk out because they were not in agreement with the walkout itself. Junior Jack McLaughlin was among those who chose to stay behind. McLaughlin said, "I purposely did not walk out because there are parts of the walkout that I do not agree with, such as ... passing a law to demilitarize law enforcement and that is something I am vehemently opposed to." McLaughlin also mentioned his notice of the fact not every student knew what they were walking out for. "I really do like the idea of more background checks; that seems like it could solve a lot of problems, and maybe even implementing a longer waiting period would be good. But the way the walkout was going, while I thought it was really cool that most students were using their First Amendment rights about what they think should be done, I saw that some students were leaving just because everyone was leaving."

Seven seniors, who formed NPA's Walkout Committee, have taken it upon themselves to educate their peers about this growing issue and invested their time into the organization of this walkout. A week before the walkout, each lead a short seminar in which they became an expert on a certain branch of the gun control discussion. These seminars sparked discussion in small groups, where the leading seniors answered as many questions as they could. Emilia Diggins, a senior member of the Walkout Committee said, "Enough is enough, and we will not let more innocent people die." Diggins researched and helped educate about the history of gun control, including the 10 year ban of the manufacturing of new semi-automatic assault weapons from 1994 until 2004. She collected statistics and facts and compared them to current data after the ban expired. Other topics included background checks, bump stocks, the National Rifle Association (NRA), and the debate of arming teachers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA WHITE.

**The members of the Walkout Committee from left to right: Melina Wardynsky, Emilia Diggins, Amelia Parker, Mattea Denney, Leila Moss, Sarah Hasiuk, and Celeste Kastel-Riggan.**

## A literary classic performed on stage

NPA's juniors and seniors take The Brothers Karamazov to Gist Hall

By Abram Rau  
Staff Writer

Rigorous academics are only part of life here at NPA. Performing a work of classical theater is another large part of the NPA experience, and when you participate in one for the last time as a junior or senior, it is a special time. One of this year's plays was The Brothers Karamazov, a play that was based on the book of the same name that is required literature for the seniors over summer break.

With the plays being so significant and NPA, tremendous work goes into executing them. This process starts after the winter break is over, with rehearsals happening for about two weeks prior to opening night. Without any academic obligations, students are free to give the production their full attention and best efforts.

This year, longtime NPA theater instructor Jean Bazemore was not the only director helping to guide the students. Rosemary Stevens, NPA alumna and freshman at the New College of Florida, was the assistant director alongside Bazemore. "My school does not have as big of a theater program as I would like," Stevens remarked, "and I am doing this for college credit, so this will go down as an internship, which is a really awesome opportunity." Stevens' responsibilities as the assistant director also included turning the book, The Brothers Karamazov, into a play. "We're



PHOTO COURTESY OF NELLI MAJOR

**The Karamazov's deliberate at the family table in the junior/senior theatrical production of the classic Russian novel.**

following one script, but it didn't really have the essence of what this book is actually about, so the students and Jean worked really hard to make it reflect what was actually in the book."

There is more to the play than what you see as an audience member. Many people worked hard behind the scenes for the play. One of the largest assignments is the setup and operation of the lights at HSU's Gist Hall. The lights are above the stage and audience, and they must be manually rigged to shine on different locations on the stage. Junior Jack McLaughlin, who was the head of the lighting crew, noted that preparations included four to six hours a day, including the weekends. Once preparations were done, the light booth operator could use a light board to organize the cues in the computer as the play progresses. This organization in the light board is then used to run successful performances repeatedly.

On opening night, Gist Hall was filled to see the Order of Pan and The Brothers Karamazov. What was seen was a truly powerful performance that was the result of two weeks of hard work. "In my younger days I used to be able to go until midnight," remarked Bazemore, "but not so much anymore." But even without the long hours, Bazemore said that "this is one of the most amazing casts I've ever worked with in all my years of NPA."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NELLI MAJOR

**NPA senior actresses Celeste Kastel Riggan (left) and Mattea Denney (right) perform in the junior/senior theatrical rendition of The Brothers Karamazov.**





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there, and it was pretty amazing to walk in there, and just have some tea in the teacher's lounge.”

Hammoutene explained that going to France was a big change for all the students. However, she noted that, “as long as they stayed open minded and flexible, they could accomplish their goal of shadowing French students.”

The cultural aspect of the France trip was incredibly rich; students received a chance to experience Normandy Beach and learned a lot about the close history of France and



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA HAMMOUTÉNE  
**Thanksgiving - French style! NPA students and teachers at the table from left to right: Finn Tetrault, Aaron Oliphant, Isaiah Lockard, Marceau Verdiere, Jean Bazemore, and Delaney Gaston.**

the maze of veins on the muscular hands of Greek statues, which making one question clear: who is more real, the viewer or the statue? Gaston reminisced, “The amount of art we got to experience while we were there was so incredible. I never really thought that I would enjoy being in the art museum as much as I did.”

student “Coming back to the high school as a teacher, was something. At NPA, students can walk freely into the teachers room, but in my high school it is not like that at all. When we were students we had all those dreams about the teachers room and what we could find

sight of him for more than an hour. Finn Tetrault, a sophomore on the trip, confessed that, “The exposure to a new culture, and getting just to see France, was life-changing. It made me more open and accepting of other people’s points of view, being that we are not same. Like calm down, take the time to understand each other.”

Delaney Gaston, a junior at NPA, loved the amount of art the students got a chance to contemplate, for it is a profound experience to view a famous piece of art from up close. You can feel a paintings breath, its heartbeat, watch

Rose Myers, a junior who also went on the trip, commented that she would have loved to spend more time in France, because of how rich the culture is. The age can be seen on every street, France is the country where every rock is saturated with stories of generations, where every crack in the wall is like a DNA strand that can be decoded into centuries of history. “We did so much, and yet we did not have enough time do everything we wanted to. I was comforted by the thought that I will go back and spend more time there.”

The streets of Paris will stay forever in the minds of those that see them. Myers expressed that “I can picture myself physically in the different part of the world. Now I know that I can imagine Paris now before I would just make something up. Now I have a mental map, and I know where the places are.”

Before the France trip happened some people were concerned about terrorist attacks that occurred in the past years. Hammoutene alleviated their fears by saying that, “It is really essential that students get to see, when they are young, that the world outside of their little bubble is wonderful and pretty. It is good for them to see that everyone is nice and that people, in general, are good. I think for them to experience that is really essential. When they came back, they all had a positive experience of Paris, and they all can share and spread it throughout their community.”

International trips that NPA conducts are a magical experience that prepares students to go into the world after high school. As Hammoutene put it, “travel teaches independence and teaches the students to be able to navigate in the world after high school. Arcata is a great community, but they also have to explore what is out there.”

It is hard to imagine where this world would be if Bilbo Baggins did not accept Gandalf’s offer and did not set out for an unexpected journey that changed the Middle Earth, Bilbo himself, and all the dwarfs. Just like it is now impossible to imagine a world where a group of courageous students, led by two teachers did not set out for a journey, that changed France, the students, and all of us



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA HAMMOUTÉNE  
**NPA students and their French hosts together on the beach at the WWII memorial in Normandy, France.**

# Alumni Profile: Sierra Farquhar



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIERRA FARQUHAR  
**From singing to rock climbing, NPA alumna Sierra Farquhar’s journey thus far has been an adventurous one.**

By Omega Gaskill  
Staff Writer

under the academically rigorous environment at NPA. While she was dedicated to her academic subjects, she also had a passion for operatic singing. “I wanted to get an education in vocal performance at a music conservatory, so I went to the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College,” she said.

Moving to Pennsylvania proved to be a major reality-check for Farquhar, as she found there to be striking differences on topics ranging from wealth to politics. “When I had looked at schools on the east coast, I had planned to be on the east coast, but I ended up being in the south. That was a huge culture shock for an Arcata native,” Farquhar reflected.

In addition the vocal arts, she was also interested in the sciences, and was both confused and disappointed when the school informed her that she would only be able to focus on either biology or music. “I definitely wanted more of a liberal arts education, but still with the rigorous nature of a conservatory,” Farquhar affirmed. Unfortunately, Farquhar’s experience was not everything she had hoped it would be, and she experienced many pitfalls. “[The school] was not very supportive of me wanting to explore other things in this liberal arts undergraduate program. I didn’t feel that-that particular program was very respectful to its students at that point in time, so I came back here to Arcata,” Farquhar said.

Once she had returned home, Farquhar began to prioritize her own health and happiness while continuing on her quest for knowledge. “After I left Gettysburg I went to College of the Redwoods for a year before starting at Humboldt State University this semester,” she said. Farquhar began working at Patrick’s Point State Park, and enjoyed spending more time in nature thanks to it. Around this time, she discovered a new passion, one which she seemed to connect with instantly: rock climbing. Farquhar considers this to be an incredible life change for her. “It’s really been a huge turning point for me in that I have a completely new with rock climbing; I travel with it, and my partner climbs as well,” she said.

Farquhar cherished her time at NPA, and even though “[her] college experience has definitely not been the traditional four-year plan,” she felt that NPA did a thorough job when preparing her for education after high school. “NPA does a lot of really positive things to help prepare [their students] for college. I think NPA teaches a lot of valuable communication skills, and social skills which are so important. The relationships that many students develop with their teachers is so unique and useful,” she enthused.

One aspect of NPA’s curriculum that Farquhar came to realize as being an incredible asset was the language skills taught at both general and IB levels. She believes that when someone is able to competently speak multiple languages, their value to society is increased massively. “A lot of graduate programs will really be interested in you if you have that second language proficiency. Those skills can make all the difference when finding a job, or applying for schools,” Farquhar emphasized.

After travelling in Europe with her grandparents before her freshman year, Farquhar was struck by wanderlust, and when the opportunity for exploration arose, she took it. “In 2010, I went to Sweden with [Dr. Bazemore], and it was absolutely amazing. It’s a very unique place and I would love to go back,” Farquhar expressed. Farquhar was incredibly grateful for that experience, as it sparked her passion to learn more about Sweden and its vast culture. During her junior year, she studied Swedish under the tutelage of Dr. Bazemore, before returning to her Spanish class for her senior year. “[The trip] was an excellent experience, and I would definitely suggest to anyone who can make it work to travel with NPA,” Farquhar said.

Farquhar now knows that she does not want to be a professional opera singer, and is exploring the field of anthropology, while working as a legal secretary to a personal injury litigator and, of course, rock climbing often. One striking piece of knowledge which she has taken away from her experiences so far is that, “If you put yourself out there, making sure it is something that you are excited about and that you can apply yourself to, that can absolutely be the way that you can get to know the right people and build the right connections.”

## Original members of OpenROV take responsibility for the club

By Omega Gaskill  
Staff Writer

in OpenROV means open-source, which means that “nothing [included in the kit] is patented, trademarked, or proprietary,” according to Arnold King, the founder of the NPA OpenROV club. “Anyone can go online and download the specs off of their website and build all the pieces on their own.”

The original club members, Aaron Oliphant, Isaiah Lockard, Ryan Meshulam, and Alder Young, are all now seniors. The club members fundraised during the first semester of their freshman year in order to purchase the OpenROV kit. Once they raised enough money, the group of robotics enthusiasts received and built their ROV. Finally, in the fall of their sophomore year, they flew it successfully in water for the first time. “In 2015, we took it out to the Lewiston Dam on a camping trip, and it broke,” King recalled. “It breaks a lot, and it’s hard when you only have an hour to take the parts out, work on it, and put them back.”

OpenROV is a Berkeley based company, founded by Eric Stackpole, a McKinleyville High School graduate. He first became intrigued by the idea of building his own ROV in high school after learning of a local legend.

According to the tale, many years ago, two bandits robbed a stage coach of all its gold, and hid it. Before the thieves were condemned, they told the authorities where the treasure had been hidden: Hall City Cave, near Hayfork. When the officers arrived however, they found the cave to be hundreds of feet deep with water!

Stackpole created his line of ROVs with the intent to search for the lost gold. A long-time friend of King’s, Stackpole has made generous donations to NPA’s ROV program, providing the group with new parts and tools in order to repair and upgrade their vehicle.

Those involved in the elective gain an understanding of multiple disciplines, including basic mechanic functions on a smaller scale, and even hydraulics, as the ROV’s purpose is being piloted through the water. “I think that the students learn a lot about electronics, especially wires and satuering, not to mention computer programming,” King noted.

While King admires robotics, and is still interested in learning more about them, he has found that in order to provide his students with a more thorough understanding and knowledge of the ROV which they operate, someone more qualified in the field would be a great asset. Even though King may go on to teach other electives in the future, the ROV will remain under the jurisdiction of the students who have taken an interest in, and wish to pilot it.

As members of the OpenROV club prepare to graduate this spring, they are passing the reins of leadership down to the next grades in order to continue the legacy of ROV.

ROV stands for “remote operated vehicle,” and the “open”

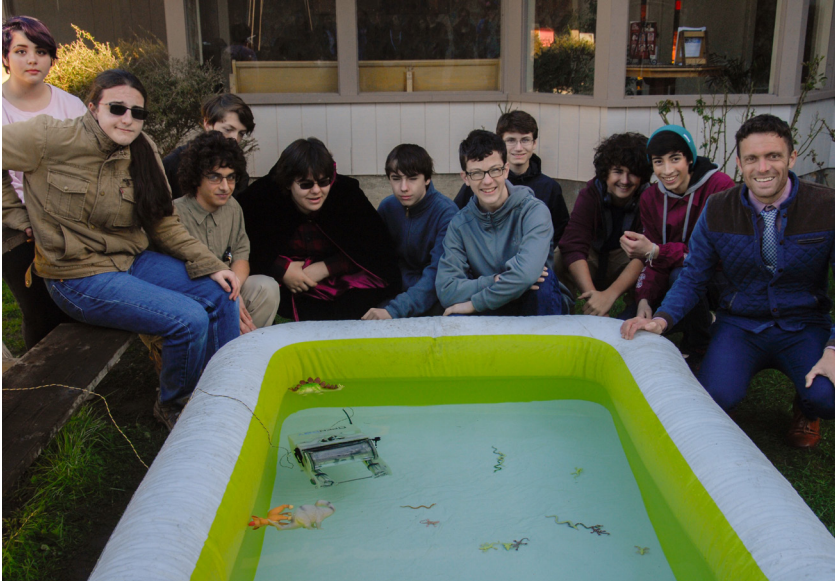


PHOTO BY SARAH HASIUK  
**The NPA OpenROV Club from left to right: Hayden Pimsner, Logan Smith, Aiden Vergen, Ryan Meshulam, Conrad McConnell, Ian Long, Theo Cress, Alder Young, Sky Korejko, Evan Aguilar and club adviser Arnold King.**





# Poetry Out Loud

By Amaya Bechler  
Staff Writer

In the late afternoon of January 19, 2018, a small crowd assembled in the Sanctuary of Arcata’s United Methodist Church. The atmosphere was tense. Some students read over sheets of paper one last time, while others nervously paced and fidgeted. Soon enough, it was time for the annual Poetry Out Loud competition to begin.

Poetry Out Loud challenges students’ memorization and expressive skills as they recite two poems in front of a board of judges and an attentive audience. NPA has taken part in the nationwide program since it was founded, and this year, seven students competed, continuing the tradition.

“You never know when you might find a poem that could come in handy to express something when you don’t have your own words to express it,” Dr. Jean Bazemore said, speaking about what the program can do for the participating students. It is a courageous thing to present a poem entirely from memorization, and Bazemore added that “it helps them grow in confidence.” On the board of four judges, she is the accuracy judge and checks whether the reciter’s spoken words align with the written poem.

The criteria for judging is strict. Physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, and overall performance are all taken into account by the panel, which consists of NPA teachers Andrew Freeman, Arnold King, and Carl Mumm. While the judges’ scores determine the winner and runner up, Bazemore says that she “always appreciates it when students do their best.”

Mumm, who teaches English, thinks that the Poetry Out Loud contest is invaluable for both students and audience members. “Memorizing a piece of literature allows you to become more intimate with the work. You can’t just gloss over it like you might in class.” He thinks that most of the benefit comes from this connection, and stressed that, “if there’s a good match between reciter and poem, then you really see that connection and it’s exciting.”

Some participating students expressed feeling a connection to certain poems, but having to choose poems from Poetry Out Loud’s slim online selection makes selecting the poems a little more difficult. Freshman Eva Pearlingi mentioned having chosen her poems from previous knowledge. However, Siena Costanzo, a sophomore, recollected how she, “went to two random pages and picked out two random poems.” This is a strategy she warns against however, as it deteriorates the bond between the person and the poem.

Lots of hard work goes into producing a satisfactory performance on the part of the student. Costanzo sometimes practiced her poems by “reading the poem in really ridiculous voices and tones to help keep it in [her] voice.” Other students emphasized that simple repetition was the key to memorization. The effort students put into their poems, combined with enthusiasm for the pieces, made the evening of the competition a little stressful for some of the reciters. “I’m kind of excited, but I’m also nervous,” Pearlingi commented shortly before her recitation.

Being in the audience as a spectator is a little more relaxing, though still enthralling in its own way. “Last year,” Mumm remembered, “when I was listening I actually cried ... some of the performances were astounding.” Many onlookers of this winter’s performance acknowledged the talent of all the students. Sophomore Areilla Adams, who attended as an audience member, said afterward, “I’m glad that I came. I got to see a lot of really good poems ... they all did really great.”

Mattea Denney, a senior who was the runner-up last year, was the winner of this year’s competition. The runner-up was sophomore Maya Hergenrader. Six of the seven students who competed this year were freshmen and sophomores, demonstrating enthusiasm from the underclassmen. In the future, the school’s Poetry Out Loud contest will continue to strengthen and grow both the community of the school, as well as inspire individuals to take a closer look at poetry. NPA has participated in the program since 2005, and will continue to show support for years to come.



PHOTO BY AMAYA BECHLER  
**The 2018 Poetry Out Loud contestants of NPA from rear left: Siena Costanzo, Eva Pearlingi, Jason Roberts, Conrad McConnell, Jane McCaffrey, Maya Hergenrader and Mattea Denney.**

## Teacher Arnold King enriches student’s lives

By Amelia Parker  
Staff Writer

Whether he is making a bagel or fishing for salmon, NPA teacher Arnold King does it all. With his impressive travel stories to his passion for connecting with students, King is an inspiration to many students at NPA and others around the world.

Arny King grew up on the southern coast of Alaska in Cordova, a town so small, it is only accessible by plane or boat. Cordova’s winters are brutally cold, and King, starting at age five, would walk to school each day in the snow or the sunshine. The main industry in Cordova is fishing. King grew up on the water, and still returns every summer to work summer jobs.

His family began spending winters in Humboldt County and eventually moved there. Upon moving to Humboldt, King began attending McKinleyville Middle School in 1997. As someone from a town as small as Cordova, King was blown away by the sheer size of Humboldt County remarking, “there was even a Taco Bell!”

King attended Humboldt State University after graduating from McKinleyville High School. He enrolled as a Geography major with an minor in English. However, King said, “it wasn’t until I was in college that I realized I wanted to be a teacher.” As a senior in college, he joined the China/Tibet Studies program and took a research trip to the Tibetan Plateau to teach English. He also helped recently relocated nomads find jobs and work towards financial stability.

King remembers one night during his time in Tibet that resonated with him as he further developed his consideration of becoming a teacher. King reminisced, “I was leading all of the kids in this big dance, and then we played basketball games and had an English lesson at night, and I was like, ‘this was really fun.’ My professor, Tony Rossi, was like, ‘You need to be a teacher.’ I really respected his opinion, so I was like, ‘alright.’ So, here I am.”

After recovering from a boating injury that required a year of physical therapy, King began substitute teaching locally in Humboldt and finished his teaching credentials. During this time, he had not been very involved with NPA. Besides his work with AFS Intercultur-

al Program, King had not heard much of the school besides their affinity to accept copious amounts of exchange students. While hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, King received a call from Andrew Freeman, who offered him a student teaching position at NPA, which he eagerly accepted. Coincidentally, the same weekend King first met with Freeman, he also went on his first date with his then future wife, Jessica. They were married in the winter of 2015 and they welcomed their daughter, Selkie Rose, in November of 2016.

Throughout his years in Humboldt County, and even during his time at NPA, King worked for about a total of ten years with Los Bagels. He began there in 2005 as his first “official” job, and left ten years later as the manager. While working in various positions, King acknowledged that the skills he learned and the experiences he had were very different from, but just as important as the lessons that he learned while in school. King joked that, “Los Bagels was one of the most important classes I ever took,” and he encourages students to gain experience through work with interacting with people as much as they can, claiming there is no such thing as a “dumb job.”

At NPA, King has multiple jobs and roles, all of which he takes on eagerly and with inspiring energy and perseverance. While primarily a history teacher, King also leads freshman and sophomore P.E., teaches Health, aids in the IB Middle Years Programme for grades six through ten, leads the OpenROV (Remote Operate Vehicles) elective, is heavily involved in the Parent Council, and takes on many campus maintenance related tasks.

One of his more recent examples of being a dedicated leader is his organization and execution of a return trip to Tibet with twelve students in 2017. The NPA students retraced King’s own steps and made discoveries as powerful and memorable as his own. His influence on the students, and their respect and admiration for him, is a telling example of the relationships students have with the teachers here at NPA. Senior Celeste Kastel-Riggan, one of the travelers of the NPA China Trip, reflected that, “Arny is one of the most genuinely caring people I know. Being able to travel with him was a learning experience because he offered so much knowledge, support, and love to our group. Arny is a role model for many students at NPA and we are so lucky to have him as a teacher, mentor, and friend.”



PHOTO BY AMELIA PARKER.  
**Arnold King finds the perfect pumpkin at the annual NPA Pumpkin Patch visit.**

# Teamwork wins every time

NPA’s basketball team kicks off their season

By Autumn Wright  
Staff Writer

Shoes squeak and dark blue jerseys flash across the College of The Redwoods’ basketball courts. On any given Friday morning you will find the NPA co-ed basketball team preparing for a game.

“I’m excited for this season, because we have a really big team,” said basketball team captain, Celeste Kastel Riggan. Kastel Riggan has been on the team for all four years of her high school career. This year, a large amount of freshman expressed interest in the sport, so the team has significantly grown from its small size of previous years. The team has around 17 members, with 12 being freshman. “I think we have the potential to be strong competitors. I see a good team,” Kastel Riggan added.

Because there are so many new students, the team has the ability to find their strengths and work on their weaknesses. “I think the goal is to work better with each other, so we all learn how each other play,” explained Zaca Leatherwood, a freshman on the team.

This was the second year Frank Whitlatch has coached the basketball team at NPA. He enjoys coaching the team, but especially enjoys being able to share his love of basketball with his son, Ronny Whitlatch. Whitlatch is a sophomore and has been on the team for two years.

The sheer size of the team has come with its own difficulties. “Since there are so many people, everyone has their different commitments,” Kastel Riggan commented, “and sometimes they miss practices.” The large amount of team members also affects the amount of time each player has on the court. “We’re going to have to work on getting everybody equal playing time,” said Kastel Riggan. While this can prove a challenge at times, it can also inspire the teams’ competitiveness.

The team has won one game so far against Eel River, but they are hoping to continue their successful season. “I hope we improve, and I can already see us improving,” exclaimed Thea Lamers a freshman on the team. Kastel Riggan describes one of her goals for the season as being able to “understand everybody well enough, so that when you are on the court, it’s kind of effortless. You know that you can pass it to them, because you know they are going to be there and they are going to get it”

Kastel Riggan is optimistic about the future of the team, even after she graduates. “We’ve got a big goal for the future of the NPA basketball team,” proclaimed Kastel Riggan, “My goal is to help organize and structure it this year, before I leave, so that it will fluidly unravel next year.” To form a team with a group of new and existing teammates was the main goal from the start for the new NPA basketball team. To be able to trust one another and, “being able to understand that when you play with someone on the court, it’s different with every single person you play with,” said Kastel Riggan.

With a passion for the sport and the motivation to make it happen, the basketball team will continue to build trust and community throughout NPA. All are



PHOTO COURTESY OF CELESTE KASTEL RIGGAN  
**The NPA Herons basketball team start down the court in a recent game. With twelve members of the team being freshman, the future looks strong for the basketball program.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUZZ PARKER.  
**From left to right, Arnold King, Amelia Parker, Mattea Denney, and Andrew Freeman at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.**





# Oliver!

First play for NPA’s newest class

**By Somerset Nielsen**  
*Staff Writer*

The wild journey of a young orphan who winds up in a group of pickpocketing children led by a criminal mastermind was brought to the stage of Humboldt State University’s Gist Hall by NPA’s freshmen. The class performed Oliver!, the well-known musical based on the novel by Charles Dickens.

The show was directed by Dr. Jean Bazemore, and she chose Oliver! because it was recommended to her by Amy Chalfant and Amy Miller, two teachers at NPA. Many of the freshmen also suggested Oliver!, but according to Bazemore, “Amy and Amy were finally the deciding factors, because they felt like it was possible.”

Due to the large size of the cast, Bazemore and the students decided to add elements of Dickens’ original novel to the musical. Bazemore was impressed with the student “willingness to accept a challenge,” because they essentially had to create a script on their own. “That was challenging,” Bazemore admitted, “both for me and for them, because if you don’t have a script that you’re already bound to, you’re creating the form as you go along. That’s something the juniors and seniors are probably more willing to deal with, such as the cast of The Brothers Karamazov was willing to deal with that.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK LAMERS  
**Freshman Thea Lamers took on what she described as the challenging role of playing an old man and a villain in Fagin. Director Jean Bazemore was impressed by all of the freshman’s “willingness to accept a challenge” in their stage adaptation of Oliver.**

The freshmen accepted the challenge of creating a script, and managed to work together to do so. “I thought [the students] had to have the right to have that say, Bazemore explained. “They had ideas about parts ... that conflicted in the novel with the way the musical was written, but they worked those out.” In regards to the making of the script, Bazemore said she “felt happy to know that a group of young people, freshmen who hadn’t experienced that before, really worked together like that.”

In the end of the novel, the antagonist Fagin is hanged, but Bazemore knew “that just was really distressful to Justin,” one of the actors playing the role, so the cast decided to follow the musical’s original ending, and keep Fagin alive. Thea Lamers, who also played the part of Fagin, found it “difficult to play the villain, and an old man, because that’s not really who I am. However, she still enjoyed getting to play the role and having an input into how he was portrayed. Lamers also mentioned she played the role very differently than her double, but how both of them were still able to convey a similar message and fit the role to their own acting style.

The lead role of Oliver was also double cast, and one of the actors playing the role, Anna



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK LAMERS  
**The cast of Oliver join together in song. NPA’s freshman class brought the famed musical to HSU’s Gist Hall in January.**

Schroeder, noted that the two Olivers interpreted the character differently. “I was playing Oliver as kind of sassy, kind of defiant, and [Emma Zerbe] was playing him as more meek but still with a very jazzy energy,” Schroeder said. “There were even specific lines that we noticed we said very differently or scenes that we played really differently even though the blocking was exactly the same.” Overall, Schroeder said she “really enjoyed performing, and I thought the show went really well considering the circumstances. We had two weeks and it was not done until the second week.” She attributes much of their success to Bazemore, who helped the cast with everything from acting to story interpretation.

One interesting aspect that Schroeder noticed among her classmates was that “a lot of people wanted to be able to work with the sophomores because it would be a good bonding experience.” Usually, NPA plays are a collaboration between the freshmen and the sophomores, and the juniors and the seniors. This year, however, the classes were kept separate, with the sophomore class performing Peer Gynt. “As a class, we bonded a lot, but we had already known each other, and I think a lot of people wanted to merge that divide between freshman and sophomores,” Schroeder observed. “I’m disappointed that we didn’t get to do that, but overall I think it worked out. It would be nice to do a show with the sophomores in the future, though.”

Even though the freshmen did not get to collaborate with the sophomores, they still put on a successful production. Bazemore was very impressed by the class’s enthusiasm and cooperation. “They had a joy and a respect for each other,” Bazemore gushed. “There was no complaining or fussing about anyone else in the cast; there was none of that stuff going on, which was really nice.” Her hopes for Oliver! were for the audience to have a pleasant experience, appreciate the energy of this class, and understand something of the collaborative effort that the freshman class put in to making this a successful production. Bazemore hopes that, throughout the play process, the freshman class learned “the joy of knowing that together they can accomplish whatever they intend and want to accomplish, and the joy of theatre and the way in which it demands collaboration.”

## Hiking through the wonders of Humboldt County

**By Autumn Wright**  
*Staff Writer*

“I like going hiking with people in the forest, or wherever else in Humboldt County,” said NPA senior and coordinator of the Hiking Club Ryan Meshulam. Meshulam took on the role of coordinating Hiking Club when last year’s seniors graduated. “I find a place for us to hike to, and then I announce it, and people show up,” Meshulam explained.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUTH MAGEE  
**Bringing people (and dogs!) together is the goal of the NPA Hiking club. Ryan Meshulam (left) and Ruth Magee (right) take a break on a forest hike with Magee’s dog, Zara.**

The main ideas of hiking club is to bring together people from the school community, to go out in nature, and get a break from schoolwork. “[Hiking Club] is so we can have a scheduled opportunity to go outside and get exercise. That is what brings people together,” said Meshulam.

“It’s a good way to spend time with your friends,” Mattea Denney remarked, a senior at NPA and a member of the Hiking Club. To go out and see the natural beauty of Humboldt County is a big aspect of the club, and for many it is what convinces them to join. “We get to see a bunch of cool sites, and we get to know really cool people,” Denney added.

Unlike most NPA clubs, the Hiking Club does not meet during school hours. Instead, it meets every Sunday. The club consists of a group of regulars and people who are interested, but cannot

favorite club because my dog, Zara, can be a member,” proclaimed Ruth Magee, a long-time member of the club. Even though the club mainly consists of NPA students, pets are encouraged to join in on the fun. “Every Sunday when we have a hike scheduled, we show up and Zara is always super stoked to be there,” added Magee.

The club explores many places from McKinleyville to Eureka and beyond. “A recent hike we just took, was going around the Sunnybrae Forest, and that was really cool, really beautiful. I had never been up there,” reflected Denney.

Hiking Club is also a great environment for inter-class bonding. With students from all grades embarking on the excursions, strong bonds are built between students who may not have gotten to know each other otherwise. “Hiking Club allows students from all the classes to bond by hiking to gorgeous locations together,” said Magee. The club gives members the opportunity to explore all the beautiful places Humboldt County has to offer in the setting of a group adventure.

Many students have chosen to participate in Hiking Club to spend time outdoors in the beautiful place they call home, and to get to know more people at NPA. “Clubs are a great way to build community, and I have definitely seen that with the Hiking Club,” said Denney. According to Denney, whether it is during school hours or not, starting a club is a great way to, “unite people with common interest.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUTH MAGEE  
**Ryan Meshulam (front) and Omar Gadzhiev (back) on a recent hike in the redwoods. The NPA Hiking club strives to offer students a break from schoolwork and an opportunity to get out in nature.**

## CLOTHING

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is that the students quickly find out that a lot of information is hard and often impossible to find as a consumer.

It is very common for the the companies themselves to not even know where all of their materials are sourced from. King remarked, “this tells us a lot about our fast paced economy and the cost of that economy. We learned a lot about chemical companies that make rubber and companies that make zippers. For instance we learned that zippers are actually manufactured almost solely at one company in Japan.” Most of the students had to contact the companies that made the item they were researching; many of them were met with dead ends, but some received helpful information.

Aiden Vayo-Tur, a freshman involved in King’s Clothing Commodity Project, chose to research the origins of his Soul Flower T-shirt. His first step toward finding out where all the raw materials were sourced was looking at the company’s website. “One of the ingredients they listed on the website was positive vibes, so I wasn’t very intimidated to say the least. I found a lot of information very quickly, such as where they sourced the dyes they used, and then for the information I couldn’t find on their website I just called them,” Vayo-Tur recollected.

When Vayo-Tur called Soul Flowers, he was quickly met with answers. One thing he found was that the polyester used in the shirt, “was made from recycled water bottles that were donated from landfills from all over California,” he commented. Even though King was offering a pizza to the student who could find the most addresses of where raw materials were sourced, Vayo-Tur thought the project had a deeper meaning; “The takeaway message wasn’t for us to know exactly where our shirt came from, it was for us to know that the producer of the shirt probably doesn’t know where the shirt came from.”

Vayo-Tur chose an article of clothing that was reasonably easy to trace the origins of, but many students were not able to find nearly as much information. “It’s exhausting try-

ing to be an informed consumer. The students called, emailed, and even tweeted companies. Some people found the exact factory in China, the exact region where the cotton was grown, and other people didn’t,” King reflected. He was impressed by how many students truly dedicated themselves to the project this year, and he was pleasantly surprised that many of them found a lot of information about the item they researched.

One of King’s students, Eva Swartz, chose to research the origins of her Timberland boots. She was able to track down where the majority of the raw materials came from, and she even found a lot of information about the factory where the shoes were manufactured. “The factory that my shoes were made in is called the De Clas Factory and is in the Dominican Republic. They have a health center as part of the factory, as well as a daycare and apartments for the people who work there,” Swartz said. She was interested to find out that Timberland uses only factories that are certified for ethical labour practices.

Through the Clothing Commodity Project, Swartz was able to learn about ethical labour practices, and also the United States’ trading laws. She explained that, “the Dominican Republic is chosen to make shoes because of how close it is to the United States. And it’s called a duty free trading zone, which means there are no taxes on the products as they travel into the United States.” King tries to incorporate global studies into everything he teaches, and this project offered the perfect setting to introduce his students to workers rights and ethical labour practices.

King taught his students about unfair workers rights and human trafficking last semester in the freshman health class. The students have been seeing a lot of overlap concerning the issues that arise when researching the garment industry and the human trafficking industry. “It’s really interesting, especially in the clothing industry, to find out who actually controls these industries. There’s a lot of big companies that control the brands we know,” King commented.

By researching the clothing industry and the human rights issues that go with it, King hopes that he has inspired his students to become more conscientious consumers. Through the exploration of these huge companies, King explains that, “You really see where the power lies, and by being a consumer you are fueling that power. Once you start investigating these things you really see who the victims are, but people love cheap, disposable stuff.”





# Autumn Solitude

Marceau Verdiere dazzles with another exhibit

By Somerset Nielsen  
Staff Writer

A local artist and teacher of French and visual arts at NPA, Marceau Verdiere displayed his latest art exhibit at the Westhaven Center for the Arts from early January to the end of February.

The exhibit, titled Autumn Solitude, was inspired by the fall season and the Japanese aesthetic philosophy of wabi-sabi. Verdiere describes this philosophy as “the appreciation for the old, the worn, the intemporal, and the ephemeral.” He admitted that he has been obsessed with it for years, starting when he went on a trip to Japan in 2011. Verdiere was following a touring Polish musician, which led him through many different cities. In each one, there were many old temples and gardens that were worn and decayed, but at the same time untouched and beautiful.

These relics embodied the main points of wabi-sabi: to accept that nothing is perfect or permanent, and that wear and decay is, according to Verdiere, “a process worthy to be observed for its inherent beauty.” Many forms of Japanese art, from flower arrangements to poetry, are influenced by wabi-sabi. Japanese culture reveres the concept that imperfection and impermanence are to be accepted and admired. Wabi Sabi has also been widely used by Western artists as a source of inspiration outside of Japan as a contrast to Western ideals of beauty.

Though Verdiere has found inspiration in wabi-sabi for many years, it was not his original reason for becoming an artist. “I wanted to escape the stresses of daily life and create a more beautiful and meaningful environment,” Verdiere revealed. When he works, he feels “isolated from the world’s ever increasing infatuation with the vulgar, aggressive, and loud.” His work is minimalist and simple, so that it does not contribute to that vulgarity. Verdiere also says that “painting is an antidote to the deception from the political discourse and the mediocrity of the populist rise, and most importantly to the claustrophobia from routine.”

For Autumn Solitude, Verdiere worked with oil paints on many different surfaces, such as canvases and pieces of wood, to create abstract paintings that depict an appreciation for solitude. In the past, Verdiere has created exhibits of both paintings and photography with an overall theme of making sense of time. He has always been concerned with the fleeting nature of time, and how easy it is to lose track of, which led him to make paintings that focus on appreciating the small moments of life. Autumn Solitude was different from Verdiere’s past exhibits, however, because instead of asking its viewers a question, it was “just a simple contemplation.”

Verdiere hopes that people who came to see the exhibit experienced a moment of beauty and calm and relaxation. His aim was to make paintings that are soothing and beautiful, and he felt that the exhibit got “a very positive response.”



PHOTO BY SOMERSET NIELSEN  
“Just a simple contemplation,” is how artist and NPA Visual Arts and French teacher, Marceau Verdiere, describes his latest art exhibit “Autumn Solitude”.

# Music, speeches, and good food

Annual French Dinner is a smashing success

By Caleb Weiss  
Staff Writer

The community spirit and the support of NPA’s international travel program once again shined at the 2018 Elegant French Dinner.

The delectable meals, lively conversations and captivating musical performances made the event a huge success. The entrancing entertainment provided by the event including the debut of the NPA Travel Magazine, created by Amelia Parker and Iya Ortiz-Beck. NPA international student, Omar Gadzhiev, gave a heartwarming speech, and Rob Diggins performed a musical number titled Acid Bach with his daughter Emilia von Einem Diggins, a senior at NPA. Parker and Ortiz-Beck’s new addition to NPA’s Student Publications department featured recent international trips to China and Tibet as well as Thailand. This is the magazine’s first edition, and the second issue will focus on the recent trips to France and India.

Arnold King, the MC and director of the dinner said, “I enjoyed Gadzhiev’s speech the most. It was the best part and most touching. It was unplanned; we knew he was going to talk but we had no idea that was going to happen.” People left the venue feeling emotional and grateful for the acceptance and ambition of NPA’s international travel program and their drive to welcome international students to the school and community.

The French Dinner plays a major role in allowing NPA to be able to send students on trips to foreign countries. Without the financial support that comes out of this event, trips would not be available to the majority of students at NPA. Maximus Landon, a senior at NPA, explained the importance of the scholarships, by simply saying, “without the scholarship I would not have been able to go on the Thailand trip.”

The international trips inspire students immensely. Multiple students expressed how lucky they feel to have been able to have these opportunities. “It definitely changed my perspective on how I live and I realized how lucky I am and how fortunate I am,” reflected Nelli Major, a junior at NPA, on her trip to Thailand. The students that get the opportunity to take an international trip return with unforgettable experiences and knowledge that will forever affect their life. Aaron Oliphant, another senior at NPA, said, “It was an amazing experience getting to spend two weeks with a French family and going to school in France, where I got to meet people that I still have a relationship with today.” Oliphant also expressed that without the aid from the French Dinner he wouldn’t have been able to go to France and experience such an amazing and life changing expedition.

The French Dinner is an amazing event because it not only provides scholarships for many students wishing to travel abroad, but it also gives a much deserved night out to anyone who wants to come relish a fabulous meal, enjoy some fabulous entertainment, and simply support the students of NPA on their upcoming international adventures.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARY GREACEN  
Supporters of NPA’s international travel program mingle at the annual French Dinner. The event raises money to provide scholarships for students who wish to travel overseas on one of the school’s trips.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARY GREACEN  
The French Dinner is an all-volunteer run event from the cooks in the kitchen to the waiters at the table. NPA students especially play a significant role in the hosting of the event and also are able to benefit from the international travel scholarships made available from the funds raised.

## MCKINLEY

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symbolize what we want in our living room, the center of our plaza, to symbolize,” explained councilmember Susan Ornelas on the issue of what the statue symbolizes. Many arguments have been made for both sides, with some residents claiming that McKinley should be revered as a hero and respected as a president, while others disavow his brutality toward Native Americans and Hawaiians.

NPA junior Rose Myers expressed that, based upon her knowledge of the situation and context surrounding it, she believes that taking the statue down is the right thing to do. “I think we need to have better ‘heroes,’” Myers remarked. “If you’re going to have a statue of someone, they should be good and ethical,

and if they’re not, then you shouldn’t be surprised when it gets taken down.” Iya Ortiz-Beck, a junior, also thought the statue should be removed. “He was a very imperialistic leader,” Ortiz-Beck emphasized, arguing that the statue did not reflect the values of the city it stands in.

While the push to remove the statue has been heavily supported by students in the area, local native groups have been a driving force behind the movement. Senior Celeste Kastel-Riggan attending a gathering on the Plaza before the city council voted on the statue’s removal. “Many people there who were native, were saying that they wanted it down because every time they walked by it, it reminded them of how badly their ancestors were treated,” Kastel-Riggan explained. “It represents so much more than just some white man. There is so much history behind it.” Kastel-Riggan also commented on how the removal of the statue represents a much larger victory for Arcata’s Native American residents. “Native American history and culture has been disregarded for so many years, and now we are finally reaching a point where it’s being recognized more, which is really important.”

The vote to remove the statue came with the decision to also remove a plaque that sits on the southwest corner of the Arcata Plaza. The text on the plaque contained the phrase “refuge in time of Indian troubles,” which was concerning to the citizens of Arcata. The plaque has since been removed, while the metal McKinley sustains his position, waiting to be transported to his new home.

While it has not been decided what exactly will become of the century-old staple in Arcata’s landscape and history, it will be removed from the Plaza in the near future. After over 100 years in the center of Arcata, the bronze landmark will find a new place to stand—one where it is justified to be. Arcata’s mayor, Sofia Pereira, acknowledged at the February 23rd council meeting that, “the gravity of this decision is not lost on this council or this community.”



PHOTO BY SARAH HASIUK  
“I think we need to have better heroes.” NPA student Rose Myers’ remarks echo the sentiments of many Arcata residents who successfully urged the Arcata city council to approve the removal of the McKinley statue from the Arcata Plaza.



# Students find new cultures and families in India

By Ruth Magee  
Staff Writer

Smog and horrendous driving conditions seem to plague India these days, but when NPA students take a trip, they do not let anything ruin their good time. Nine students were accompanied by three chaperones

over the winter break of 2017 on a trip of a lifetime through the historical treasure trove that is India.

The trip started off with an eight hour layover in Seoul, South Korea, but as soon as the plane landed in New Delhi, the fun started. “We got to the hotel after a long drive in a scary taxi that sped and swerved, but we got to a nice hotel that catered a big meal for us,” Madison Cooper, a junior on the trip, fondly remembered.

New Delhi is a hub for religious sites, and the group took advantage of this by visiting a Christian church, Hindu temples, and a Sikh gurdwara. Leila Moss, a senior on the trip, found the visit to the Sikh gurdwara especially interesting. “India is a very classist society, and country, and the Sikh’s main focus is blending those classes, and focusing on people as a whole, which is really cool,” she commented.

Later, the group visited the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. Adam Hess, a math and physics teacher at NPA who chaperoned the trip, loves traveling and seeing new places. “That was the main thing, getting to see places you’ve only seen on a map or in pictures, places like the Taj Mahal,” he said. Even though everyone on the trip enjoyed seeing the architectural wonders India has to offer, they could all agree that it was the people they met that made the trip utterly unforgettable.

From New Delhi, the group flew to the other side of India to meet with their host families in Vadodara. NPA has a sister school in Vadodara called Anand Vidya Vihar (AVV), so all the travelers stayed with families from AVV. For Hess, the best times he had on the trip were, “the interactions and the times we spent with our host families; all of us together and in small groups had a lot of fun.” Students from AVV are planning on visiting Humboldt County during the spring of 2018.

AVV is a private school, so they have a modern facility and the students there are financially better off than those of students at a government school. NPA strives to incorporate a service project into all the trips the school takes, so students brought school supplies to a government school in Vadodara. “We were trying to have a positive impact of course, and from here it was hard to know what was needed. Paper and just general supplies was what the government school we went to requested,” Hess explained. It was an eye opening experience for the students to experience a private school, as well as a government school.

“It was pretty rustic. You can really see the difference in the kids, because the kids that come from poorer families are very small, they’re typically pretty malnourished. They’re genuinely happy though, and they were so happy to see us,” Moss explained. Even though there were differences between the two schools, Hess also found many similarities.

“Both schools wear uniforms, both have students, and both have capable teachers. There’s a lot of similarities, but there are a lot of differences. Besides maybe the building they were using and eating lunch outside sitting on the ground compared to tables and things, I didn’t see drastic differences besides supplies and what they had in their building,” Hess elaborated. NPA’s students also brought the government school students kites to help them celebrate Uttarayan.

Uttarayan is a culturally significant festival that happens on January 14th, and one of the main aspects of it is the flying of kites long into the night. “We were trying to fly kites all day with little success because it was not very windy and it was hot. Then in the evening, when the wind picked up and the fireworks and music started playing, it was a really loud and boisterous event,” Hess reminisced.

After visiting with their host families and attending a few classes at AVV, NPA’s students traveled to the western state of Rajasthan. There they visited an ancient Buddhist city called Jaisalmer where, “one wall in every house was painted a light blue to protect them from the heat. We hiked to a lookout and we could see all of the blue [walls] with the sun behind them, it was beautiful,” Cooper recollected. From there, the group traveled to



PHOTO BY SARAH HASIUK  
During their three week journey throughout India, NPA students visited dozens of the country’s cultural and historical treasures including the famous Taj Mahal.



PHOTO BY SARAH HASIUK  
Student travelers from NPA at the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, a prominent Sikh house of worship in New Delhi, India. From left to right: Omega Gaskill, Iya Ortiz-Beck, Sarah Hasiuk, Leila Moss, Autumn Wright, Amelia Parker, Gaby Saavedra, Andrew Freeman (Exchange coordinator), Jaswantsingh Sagar (Exchange coordinator from India), Madison Cooper, Cypress Killeen and Adam Hess (Exchange coordinator).

another city in Rajasthan called Jodhpur.

It was in Jodhpur that the India trip travelers had the unique experience of staying in desert tents. “The teachers got one with a rug and a cabinet. There was even a bathroom in the tent with a flushing toilet,” Cooper said. That night, the crew went on a Jeep ride through the desert in the cool evening air. The next morning, everyone woke up early to ride camels at sunrise.

By traveling through so many cities and states in India, the students had the opportunity to experience the vast array of foods and cultures the country has to offer. “The food was amazing and really diverse between the states in India. For instance, the more south you go the spicier the food gets. One time we ate food from the state of Punjab, which is the most northern state in India, and the food was pretty sweet,” Moss explained.

The culture in India is profoundly different than anything NPA’s travelers had ever participated in. Moss commented on the people’s religion and said, “They are all really devoted to their religion, and there are many religions, and they can all come together through that devotion to their religion.” Another thing that Moss found that unifies Indians is their clothes; “the people’s dress is really colorful and super vibrant and it’s stayed pretty traditional. You’ll see that lot of the older folks still wear all the traditional clothes today.” She pointed out that people still dress mostly in saris in rural villages because it is the most practical option. The students learned that a sari is a five to nine meter long piece of cloth that can be easily wrapped all around the body.

Everyone who traveled to India agreed that the connections and friendships they made with their host families were truly unforgettable and invaluable. Moss, who is originally from India, thought that this was the best international trip she has been on so far, and plans to visit again. She expressed how she has “made really close connections with my host family and other host families. Being from India myself, I’d like to explore other places and maybe even the place I’m from. I know there is a lot more to explore so I definitely want to go back.”



PHOTO BY SARAH HASIUK  
NPA’s sister school, Ananda Vidya Vihar (AVV) organized a special three day adventure to the state of Rajasthan for the visiting group from NPA. Here, atop an ancient Rajasthani fort, the group was greeted with an incredible view of Jodhpur, the “Blue City”.

# The debut of an altered Peter Pan

By Caleb Weiss  
Staff Writer

Fairies and pirates invaded Humboldt State University’s Gist Hall for this year’s production of The Order of Pan. Tushar Mathews, a teacher and former student at Dell’Arte in Blue Lake, was the driving force and creative mind behind this production.

Mathews was born in Mumbai, India and moved to Humboldt County and attended Dell’Arte, a school for physical theatre. He graduated from Dell’Arte last June and is now

working there as a marketing coordinator and teacher.

The Order of Pan, while based on the classic story of Peter Pan, also included elements of The Lord of the Flies by William Golding. During the first rehearsal, the cast members read the script and gave their thoughts, after which, Mathews decided that it was appropriate to add more scenes, themes and plot twists. The students were able to add their own input and ideas as well, and all of them enjoyed their active participation in the creation of the play.

Junior Iya Ortiz-Beck, when talking about the show, emphasized how much she enjoyed how Mathew’s allowed the students to shape and adapt the show. “He would take suggestions and allow us to modify the play as we liked.” Phoenix Arnold also expressed how he enjoyed being able to create his own character in a unique way. Mathews gave the students this sort of leeway because he was able to learn from what they had to say, thus making the show a more enriching experience for not only the students, but for him as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH HASIUK  
Junior Madison Cooper on the stage in a recent junior/senior production of the “The Order of Pan”, based on the classic story of Peter Pan.

Many of the students involved in The Order of Pan expressed their appreciation and respect for Mathews as a director. They loved how he introduced his knowledge of physical theatre to them, and how they were all able to use those concepts in The Order of Pan. Brianna Chapman, a junior reflected, “I learned from Tushar that theatre is a reflection of who you are. You can send messages and convey ideas through the art form.”

From being in this production, certain students were able to gain a much stronger grasp of the theatre world. Junior Cypress Killeen felt a connection with not only the show, but also with Mathews. “Tushar made me feel more inspired than ever to pursue and enjoy theatre.”The Order of Pan was a very successful show that Mathews was able to turn into a project that both him and the students were able to enjoy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH HASIUK  
From left to right: Brianna Chapman, Keaton Sullivan and Nelli Major performing in NPA’s production of “The Order of Pan”. Students appreciated being able to present their own ideas and creativity into this production which was directed by Tushar Mathews, a former student and teacher of Dell’Arte in Blue Lake.





# A magical take on a classic play

**By Tehilla Horowitz**  
*Staff Writer*

Trolls, the Norwegian mountainside, and adventures at sea all made Peer Gynt a magical experience. Based on the play of the same name by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, Peer Gynt was an experience that this year’s sophomores are sure to never forget.

This year’s freshman/sophomore play was separated into two separate plays due to the large amount of students in each class. The sophomore production was prepared in the usual NPA style: two weeks of intense rehearsals. The play had very little use of set or props and was intended to focus mainly on the actors. Hard work and hours of planning was put into the play by each student.

Shoni Rheinschmidt, a sophomore, played the troll princess. Rheinschmidt expressed how much she enjoyed her experience in the play by emphasizing that, “I wish I could have done it with the freshman, but it was still fun being able to get to know my class better.”

Ronald Whitlatch, also a sophomore, played several characters in the play and agreed with Rheinschmidt when it came to the separation of the two classes. “I would have preferred more integration within the classes,” Whitlatch admitted, but said he still really enjoyed his time working on the play with his class. Although the freshman and sophomores were unable to work together it did allow the sophomore class to learn more about each other and work on new skills together.

The directors of the play, Morgan March and NPA teacher Arnold King, were a major part of the success of the play. All of the students involved agreed the directors were the most enjoyable part of the production. Finn Tetrault, who played old Peer Gynt, commented that, “Our class welcomed the new directors, and we were excited for a new opportunity.” Morgan is known in the sophomore class as an original director who was very easy-going but dedicated to hard work. “He gave us a really valuable experience by showing us new ways to use ‘tools’ as actors,” sophomore

Aiden Vergen, who played middle-aged Peer Gynt, explained. “It was really great to have a whole class as a well oiled working machine with many countless tireless hours of rehearsal to put on the amazing production.”

Rheinschmidt recollected her time working with March and said, “I found him to be an amazing director and I really liked his style.” March and King allowed the sophomore class to interpret the play for themselves, which gave the students the opportunity to be creative. March was very open to what everybody had to say. “I really enjoyed this year because of how much freedom we got,” commented sophomore Melissa Horne, who played the mother of Peer Gynt. While March and King where the official directors of the play, they were more of a guiding hand to create a play that the sophomores connected with.

Time was very valuable throughout the process of the play. The class did not have a lot of free time, but everybody was dedicated to their work. “We all worked productively and really learned how to manage our time. There wasn’t a lot of downtime,” Vergen explained. “The director made sure that everyone who wasn’t doing something could be some set piece, and that was really great because it kept us busy. It kept us on our toes and kept the energy up throughout the entire experience.”

The class also had to learn how to take care of themselves because they had so little time to do anything but focus on the play. Some people, for example, sophomore Jacksonon Rankin who played young Peer Gynt, came up with ways to balance self care and the practice. “I took time to myself so I could chill and relax,” Rankin said. Working on these critical skills allowed the sophomores to enjoy the process more. “I could handle stress a lot better,” Rheinschmidt admitted.

Having to constantly work also brought the classmates together, especially when everybody was stressed about



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARNOLD KING  
**Behind the scenes. Sophomores rehearsing on the Gist Hall stage at HSU for their theater production of Peer Gynt. Students had little downtime during two weeks of preparation for what turned out to be a well-attended and successful production.**

how the play would come together in the short two weeks. Gail McComas, who played adult Peer Gynt, felt as though the play forced people to work together when they would not hang out usually. The play taught many sophomores new skills and gave them new friendships.

Overall, the play was a great experience for the sophomore class. It not only gave them a chance to work with amazing directors but brought them closer together and gave them new skills. “Who knows? I could possibly go to Broadway now!” Rheinschmidt exclaimed.

# Boys tennis back on court

**By Iya Ortiz-Beck**  
*Staff Writer*

NPA’s boys tennis team has a large impact upon the school and being a part of the team can be a way for students to incorporate athletics into their school lives. The team ranges from freshman to seniors at varying skill levels. Like most sports being on a team creates a sense of community between the players. Sports are a great way to enrich student’s lives. NPA’s athletic teams teach teamwork and good sportsmanship along with giving students the chance to have healthy competition, exercise and a pause from schoolwork.

Administrator and tennis coach Michael Bazemore works with each student on improving their tennis skills and makes sure that each player gets as much practice they need. Bazemore is very passionate about the tennis team and takes it on as one of his many priorities at the school. Bazemore has coached for almost 17 years in the Humboldt-Del Norte league. He was excited to begin this 2018 season with a group of new players who previously attended, and played tennis, at the NPA middle school.

Since NPA is a small school with some limitations on resources, they share courts with other schools and the city of Arcata. Gabriel Blank, a junior who has played tennis for four years, commented on the success of the team. “[The team is] surprisingly good considering our lack of resources. We have a good learning program that can work from the ground up, and have fun while doing it.” NPA appreciates the support they have outside of the school and owes a lot of their success to the

generosity of the community.

The team practices two times a week, with matches three to four times a week depending on the weather. Spending consistent amounts of time with people, especially in an organized way like this, forces the boys to make connections with one another and work as a team. Despite the actual game of tennis being played in doubles or singles, the effort of each player on the team is what makes them successful. These students often find themselves knowing how to get along in a group setting and be familiar with the concept of working together to achieve a goal.

Abram Rau, a freshman on the team says that, “Tennis is a really important part of NPA and I think that there is a huge commitment to being a part of a good team.” NPA is a very academically driven school, and that can draw a lot of students. However, many incoming ninth graders value sports and being a part of a school team. Even though NPA doesn’t offer many sports, the tennis teams are a good bridge between academics and sports and allows some of the more athletic students to have that opportunity.

Tennis instills different values at NPA. It offers a way for students to learn something they otherwise might not be able to learn. Jackson Rankin, who has played tennis for three years also notes that his favorite part of being on the team “is that we are supportive of each other, it’s hard to find a support group like the tennis team.” Tennis is something offered to all students of NPA and it is just another part of the school’s community that the students can enjoy.

# Welcome to Humboldt!



**NPA and the Humboldt County community welcomed ten students and two teachers from NPA’s sister school, Anand Vidya Vihar (AVV) in Vadodara, Gujarat, India, to Humboldt County this April. The guests from India walked through the waters of Fern Canyon, played in the snow on Horse Mountain, watched NPA students Carson Campbell-Wiley, Mandy Smalley and the rest of the Humboldt Saplings team compete in roller derby, and so much more. On Monday, April 2nd, the group and some of their Humboldt hosts hiked through the ancient forest at Prairie Creek State Park and paused for this group photo at the base of an old growth redwood tree. Look for a full story on the visit of our guests from AVV in the next edition of the Heron Herald.**

# Annual cabaret features variety of student performances

**By Aria Cabot**  
*Staff Writer*

different classes. The cabaret had two hosts Omar Gadhziev and Ryan Meshulam who left the audience laughing with jokes between acts.

“I’ve done the cabaret before and it was really fun, I sing different songs from the same band every year,” said performer Keaton Sullivan. “One year I sang a song called Commander Cosmo when I was singing it my voice cracked and I thought it was over but this year I came back sang it again and got it nearly perfect except for one verse. I really hope they do a spring cabaret because if they do I will perfect the song!”

Freshman Garrett Leach also performed at the cabaret. “I sang Creep by Radiohead, I was super nervous because when I got on stage my ukulele was out of tune so I had to sing acapella which I was unprepared for,” said Leach the only freshman to perform. “I’ve been singing since elementary school. I’ve wanted to be in the cabaret since I heard it was an option.” The event does not commonly include freshmen but thankfully Leach sang this year to represent for the freshmen class.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK LAMERS  
**Singing acapella, NPA seniors (from left) Aaron Oliphant, Isaiah Lockard, D’mitri Woodruff and James George entertain the crowd at the annual cabaret event.**

Celeste Kastel Riggan performed with Rose Myers. “I sang two songs with Rose, the first was Work Song by Hoser and the other was No Good by Amy Winehouse which is also what I’m singing for my artist diploma performance,” noted Kastel Riggan a senior at NPA. “I was super nervous for my performance because I never sing in front of people, but once I got on stage my nerves went away. Singing with Rose made it so much easier, I was less nervous because Rose was there with me.” Kastel Riggan added, “Amy Winehouse is probably the person I look up to the most when it comes to singing.”

The cabaret has been an inspiration, a confidence booster and all in all an amazing event for NPA students. It brings the classes together to share talents with each other. The cabaret performers consisted of many talented students including: Garrett Leach, Maya Hergenrader, Finn Tetrault Aiden Vergen, Phoenix Arnold, Nelli Major, Mikayla Collins, Rose Myers, Celeste Kastel Riggan, James George, Aaron Oliphant, Isaiah Lockard, Maximus Landon, Melina Wardynski, Emilia Von Einem Diggins, Fiona Shaughnessy, and Mattea Denney. The Jazz band also performed and consists of Alex Lamers, Nick McCurley, Zaca Leatherwood, Aiden Miele, Fiona Shaughnessy, Logan Smith, Michael Scott, Melina Wardynski and Maya Hergenrader. When the Jazz band performed they had Garret Leach and Aiden Vergen come on stage and sing while the band played.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK LAMERS  
**Senior Keaton Sullivan, aka Commander Cosmo, returned to the stage for yet another out of this world cabaret performance.**